

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN AIDS PREVENTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NNAAPC Recognizes Sharon Day with the Honoring the Red Ribbon Award

September 6, 2012 - Denver, CO - The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) is pleased to announce that Sharon Day (*Ojibwe*) is the 2012 recipient of the Honoring the Red Ribbon Award.

Ms. Day is one of the founders of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) in Minneapolis, MN and has served as its Executive Director since 1990. Under her tenure, the Task Force has implemented numerous programs for women, youth, and families, including constructing a 14 unit housing program for people living with HIV. She has served on the Ryan White Planning Council and the Prevention Planning Council in Minnesota, and on the Positive Women's Board of Directors for 4 years. Most recently, she received an award from the National Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Task Force in 2010 for her work with people living with HIV. The Governor of Minnesota and the Mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul named November 10, 1998 as "Sharon M. Day" Day.

"Sharon's accomplishments in HIV prevention locally, regionally, and nationally are unparalleled. She was a pioneer in this work and continues today as a leading HIV advocate and activist the national level," said Robert Foley, President/CEO of NNAAPC. "She is truly deserving of this award and NNAAPC is pleased to be able to recognize her passion and her work."

NNAAPC recognizes the work of a single Native person each year with this award. This award was created and is given in honor and memory of Marty Lynn Prairie (1958-2001) (*Lakota*). Marty was a long time friend and ally of NNAAPC who, through his tireless commitment to HIV/AIDS education and prevention in Indian Country and throughout the United States, became a well-known HIV and harm reduction advocate. Marty's commitment to action, his strong voice, and his fearless leadership within the Native community inspired NNAAPC to honor his legacy by annually presenting an award to a leader in the Native community who demonstrates similar attributes in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"For the past 25 years, Sharon's steadfast leadership has improved many lives in Indian country, both urban and reservation settings. Sharon is also a powerful role model for many young Native leaders like myself. Her tireless advocacy, her willingness to stand up and speak up, and her gentle and stern teachings, ensures not only that our leaders, like myself, are working and living in a good way but that our community is also living in a good way. On behalf of the NorthEast Two-Spirit, we

proudly congratulate Sharon Day on being 2012 recipient of the Red Ribbon Award,” said Harlan Pruden (*Cree*), Councilmember and Co-Founder of NorthEast Two-Spirit Society.

The call for nominees went out June of this year, and NNAAPC was excited at the size and quality of the nominee pool this year. This is just further evidence of the level of effective programming being designed and carried out by Native people across this country in response to the growing HIV epidemic.

“It has been my honor to know Sharon Day. Her commitment to the field of HIV and AIDS has been an inspiration to me and to countless others. She is diligent and caring in her support and gentle guidance of Native youth, teaching them respect for traditional culture for the generations who follow us,” Said Pamela Jumper-Thurman (*Western Cherokee*), Senior Research Scientist for the Department of Ethnic Studies, Colorado State University. “Her strong voice speaks truth and she has not been silenced by situations or people - this tenacity has kept a much needed national focus on Native people. On a personal level, I am honored to call her my friend, my sister.”

A reception in Ms. Day’s honor will be held at Caesars Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, NV on October 1, 2012, 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Milano IV Room. This reception will be held in conjunction with the US Conference on AIDS, and all are welcome to join us in honoring Sharon Day for her dedication to HIV prevention and for promoting health and wellness amongst Native peoples.

About NNAAPC

The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC), located in Denver, CO, is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 to address the impact of HIV/ AIDS on American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through culturally appropriate advocacy, research, education, and policy development in support of healthy Indigenous people. NNAAPC provides capacity building assistance to tribal and urban health organizations and communities, community-based organizations serving Native people, and agencies that administer federal HIV/ AIDS policy. Over the last 25 years, NNAAPC has conducted work in community mobilization, training and technical assistance in HIV/ AIDS prevention, intervention and case management, communications and media development, outreach and recruitment, developing technologies with HIV applications, and forging a policy agenda that ensures the inclusion of Native people. NNAAPC is the only national HIV/ AIDS-specific Native organization in the United States.

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